

Utah OSHA Compliance Assistance Newsletter

(Summer 2003)

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1. Links to various websites
2. National News
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Outreach for Hispanic workers:

eTools en Español

* [El Manejo del Equipaje \(Baggage Handling\)](#)
(04/2002)

* [La Costura \(Sewing\)](#) (10/2001)

National News

Tips for Working in Hot Weather

"Summertime and the livin' isn't always easy" ? just ask those who work in the oftentimes oppressive heat and humidity associated with the season. With that in mind, OSHA has put together [information](#) to help workers and employers stay safe throughout the summer months. A new fact sheet (Working Outdoors), the Heat Stress Card, and a pocket card called "Protecting Yourself Against Harmful Sunlight" are available on OSHA's website to help prevent many heat-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries. available on OSHA's website to help prevent many heat-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries.

New Fact Sheet on Whistleblower Protection in the Airline Industry

[Whistleblowers and Airlines](#) is the latest in a series of fact sheets on various topics that OSHA produces for employers and workers. This new fact sheet gives a brief description of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR 21) that establishes procedures for handling airline employee complaints. The fact sheet provides examples of prohibited retaliatory actions, as well as a brief discussion on required procedures to file a complaint.

Local News

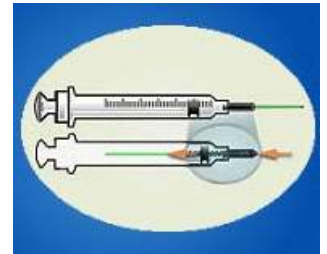


Warnings:

1. An employee was assigned to weld a bracket onto a waste oil tank in a vehicle/equipment maintenance shop. Although the waste oil tank had been drained, it still had sludge in it and had not been thoroughly cleaned as required by 1910.252. The welding ignited a flammable vapor-air mixture inside the tank, causing an explosion and fireball. The welder received serious burns to his body and face. None of the workers in the shop had been formally trained in welding work and safe practices.
2. An employee was pouring concrete column at a construction site. He was wearing the appropriate fall protection equipment, however, he was not tied off to the overhead supports. At the time of the accident he had only the positioning hook, fastened to the front of the body harness. The connector had been hooked over the lip of the pre fab form bypassing the safety latch. The employee's safety lanyard was not tied off. As he attempted to maneuver a vibration tool known as a "stinger" into position at the top of the column while standing on the exterior cross rails of the pre-fab form of the column, the hook rolled off the lip of the form. The safety lanyard failed and the employee fell 15 feet to the ground. The impact rendered him unconscious, broke his nose and both suborbitals of this skull.



[Ergonomic solutions for
Electrical Contractors](#) e-
tools



[Safer needle device](#)



[Construction:
Fall
Protection](#)

Call with your questions and comments at 530-6860 or email at ssafiullah@utah.gov





Hispanic Workers At Risk

e- Alert

According to the 2003 AFL-CIO study, fatalities among Latino workers continue to dramatically increase, although workplace safety and health is improving overall. The report shows that since 1992 the number of fatalities to Hispanic Workers killed at work has increased by 67 percent. Hispanics have a fatality rate of 6 per 100,000 workers, well above the national rate of 4.1 per 100,000.

The Hispanic population now represents 12.5 % (34.3 million people) of the total population of the United States. In Utah 9% percent of the population is Hispanic. In most cases, Hispanic workers do not know their rights as employees. Their injuries and illnesses often go unreported. Some of the major concerns of Hispanic worker population are listed below:

- * Language and cultural factors can be barriers to receiving adequate safety training.
- * Workers are less likely to report hazards on the job due to fear about job security, language issues, or lack of knowledge about their rights.
- * Concerns about immigration status (for both documented and undocumented workers) prevent adequate access to basic services and discourage exercising basic rights.

Goals and objectives:

Against this background the goals and objectives of an employer may include the following:

1. Inform and educate Latino employee groups their rights and responsibilities as paid workers.
 2. Ensure that they understand the safety and health requirements for the particular job they are doing.
 3. Offer periodic training on safety and health issues such as fall protection, scaffolds, forklifts, hazardous chemicals etc.
- More safety and health materials in the Spanish Language can be found at the Federal OSHA website: www.osha.gov, then click on En Español.



If you have any questions please contact UOSH at 530-6860 or visit us at our website at: www.uosh.utah.gov

Lessons Learned #1

Accident Type	Crushed by stone slabs	Employer Safety and Health Program?	No
Weather	Dry, Cool	Training & Education program for employees?	No
Type of Company	Interior decorative stone importers and installers	Craft of Deceased employee	Laborer
Size of Work Crew	Five	Age/Sex	30/Male
Union or non-Union	Non-Union	Experience at this type of work	6 months
Worksite inspection program	None	Time on Project	1 hour
Designated Competent Person on site?	None		



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Workers were unloading a shipment of stone from a cargo container/trailer. They had successfully unloaded all of the small containers. The remaining three wood shipping crates each held 10 stone slabs, approximately 6 ft. X 9 ft. X 7/8 inch, each weighing about 650 pounds. Two of the crates were on the left side at the back of the trailer, the other was on the right side at the back of the trailer. This uneven weight distribution caused the cargo trailer to lean to one side. Because the crates were too heavy to move with the equipment available, the workers were trying to move one slab at a time to the back of the trailer where it could be picked up with a forklift. They started with the crate on the right. After successfully moving the first slabs, the next slab had a small crack in it. When they started to move the slab, it fractured and fell. Because the trailer was leaning, the remaining slabs fell over onto the workers, pinning three of them. One of the workers was killed.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pre-plan work, to identify the hazards of the work to be performed, and to identify the work practices and equipment necessary to perform the work safely .
2. Train the employees in the work practices necessary to perform the job safely.
3. Provide mechanical handling equipment appropriate to the task.
4. Provide additional supports to level the trailer and prevent it from tipping (not only side to side, but also front to back - due to the weight involved with stone, the trailer can be tipped over not only on its side, but also on either end).

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Lessons Learned #2

Accident Type	Head Injury- Non Fatal	Employer Safety and Health Program?	Yes
Weather	Clear	Training & Education program for employees?	Yes
Type of Company	Tire Dealer	Craft of Deceased employee	Tire Changer
Size of Work Crew	1	Age/Sex	20/Male
Union or non-Union	Non-Union	Experience at this type of work	1 years
Worksite inspection program	None	Time on Project	1 hour
Designated Competent Person on site?	N/A		



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The employee had removed the damaged tire and replaced it with a new tire and tube after inspecting the rim. In preparing to seat the bead, he placed the tire and rim on the ground and began to inflate the tire tube with 130 psi air without a tire gauge when the tire tube burst causing the tire bead to rupture. The employee was over the tire when the burst of air caused the tire and rim to rocket into the air. The rocketing tire propelled the employee into the air about 10 feet and was found on the ground next to his truck with severe head injuries.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Maintain a safe distance while inflating heavy equipment and truck tire to stay out of the trajectory of the rim.
2. Place tires in a restraining cage or mount on the vehicle before seating the bead the during inflation.
3. Use clip-on air chuck and extended in-line air gauge so the air pressure can be monitored during the initial inflation of the tube according to the tire manufacturer's warning instruction.
4. Train employees on the safety procedures in mounting and inflating tube tires.

Lessons Learned #3

Accident Type	Fatality	Employer Safety and Health Program?	None
Weather	Clear	Training & Education program for employees?	None
Type of Company	Ready-mixed concrete	Craft of Deceased employee	Truck Driver
Size of Work Crew	1	Age/Sex	37/Male
Union or non-Union	Non-Union	Experience at this type of work	3 years
Worksite inspection program	None	Time on Project	1 hour
Designated Competent Person on site?	N/A		



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

An employee was cleaning concrete residue from the discharge chute and from the fins inside of the drum of a ready mix cement truck using a spray gun. The employee finished cleaning the discharge chute and climbed on to the platform at the top of the cab, preparing to clean the drum fins. Apparently, he stepped on the discharge cowl to gain better access to remove the concrete, lost his balance, and slid into the rotating drum receiving fatal injuries.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Use a positioning device system or a fall restraint system while working on the platform.
2. Train employees in recognizing fall hazards and procedures necessary to perform the job safely.

Fatality and Injury Briefs

(Summer 2003)

There have been several serious injuries and fatalities in the past three months (May through July) in the state of Utah. Some of the major accidents are listed below for your information:

	Accident Type	Accident Summary	Preventive Action or Recommendation
July	<i>Highway fatality</i>	<i>Boom truck overturned</i>	<i>Driver safety training, use of seat belts</i>
	Fracture - Both feet	Fell from work platform	Use of fall protection/ fall protection training
	Fracture - Skull	Fell off ladder while window cleaning	Training on ladder safety
	Broken leg	Operating overhead crane	Training on crane operation
	Fractured ankle	Fall from ladder	Training on ladder safety
	<i>Fatality</i>	<i>Cleaning cement mixer (see Lessons Learned #3)</i>	<i>Use of fall protection</i>
	<i>Fatality (Hispanic worker)</i>	<i>Employee hit and dragged by forklift due to obstructed view from the forklift.</i>	<i>Training on forklift. Clearly demarcated aisles and passageways</i>
	Broken nose and both suborbitals of the skull	See front page "Local News, Warnings"	Lack of the proper use of fall protection system
	<i>Fatality</i>	<i>Crushed by machinery while performing maintenance work</i>	<i>Provide detailed lockout/tagout training for individual machinery.</i>
	<i>Fatality</i>	<i>Not enough information</i>	
June	<i>Fatality</i>	<i>Crushed by earth pile debris while operating trackhoe causing asphyxiation, night-time operation.</i>	<i>Training on trenching and excavation. Pre job hazard assessment of soil stability. Provide adequate lighting.</i>
	Abrasions to face, permanent eye damage	Compressed air drilling, pressure build-up inside the hole during drilling. Pieces of rock and dust blew into the face of employee as he was looking into the hole.	Lack of specific safety training for the job. Ensure proper PPE is provided and worn.
	Fractured hip, shattered pelvis, severed nerves and arteries, muscle and tissue damage	Feeding stainless steel sheets in a sanding machine. The machine jammed and the sheet hit the employee with tremendous force.	Employee was not trained on the safe location and distance from the machine. Lack of training on the hazards of the operation.
	Near miss electrocution	Crane operation near power lines	Keep safe distance (10 feet, depending on voltage) from overhead power lines while operating crane.
	Partial amputation	Clearing a jam from a food processing machine	Provide adequate machine guarding
May	<i>Fatality</i>	<i>Fall from scaffold</i>	<i>Training on proper scaffold erection</i>
	Broken legs (Hispanic worker)	Fall into excavation	Training on trenching and excavation
	Amputation of left thumb	Grinding a bolt on a pedestal grinder	Specific on the job training
	Slashed Hand	Loose clothing caught in rotating blade while cleaning a cement mixer	Wear appropriate clothing near moving parts. Avoid reaching into moving drum.